

The steamer Fashion arrived at New Orleans on the evening of the 6th instant, with letters and papers furnishing authentic intelligence from the city of Mexico to the 29th ultimo, from Puebla to the 30th, and from Vera Cruz to the 1st instant.

Gen. Scott was still at Puebla, and did not contemplate advancing upon the capital until he was joined by Gen. Pierce's command, which was expected to reach him early in August.

We copy from the Picayune's summary of the news, as follows:

Our letters from Vera Cruz differ somewhat from Mr. Kendall's in regard to the probable movements of General Scott. They represent the chances of peace in a more favorable light than Mr. K., and think the resistance to our advance will be almost nominal. Mr. Kendall thinks differently, and gives his reasons. We can only find this morning for his latest letters, which will be found below.

In Mexico every thing was at sixes and sevens. Congress has referred Mr. Buchanan's letter back to the Executive, and thrown upon him all the responsibilities of the war. About 26,000 men are collected for the defence of the city, but the peace party in the town is yet strong and increasing, and they have no faith in their Generals.

Gen. Pierce, with his train and convoy, had arrived safely at Perote. It will be seen that Mr. Kendall believed General Scott would advance the first week in August upon Mexico, and that there would be the severest battle of the war. The Mexicans are fully prepared to receive him.

The Sun of Anahuac gives the following account of an encounter between Gen. Pierce's train and the guerrillas. It must be regarded as a rumor, says our correspondent, and so too says the Sun:

"A respectable person of the city has informed us that a letter has been received yesterday morning by a citizen of this place, from a guerrilla chief, stating that the guerrillas, about 600 in number, attacked the train commanded by Gen. Pierce near the National Bridge. The letter says the Americans approached under the fire of the Mexicans until they arrived within a hundred yards of them, when the American infantry opened a deadly fire upon them, forcing them to retreat. While the Mexicans were retreating, the American cavalry rushed on them, sword in hand, and killed about one hundred Mexicans. The position of the Mexicans was one of the strongest that can be found in the country. The Americans passed the bridge after this successful engagement."

A gentleman who conversed with Santa Anna since the middle of July—we are told this on the best authority in Vera Cruz—found him in favor of negotiating, but dreading to assume the responsibility. Gen. Valencia had arrived at the capital with four thousand men from San Luis Potosi—all full of fight. This embarrassed Santa Anna. He felt himself too strong to give up without a fight.

Our letters mention the death of Lieut. Tipton, of the Rifles, and Lieut. Sturgeon, of one of the Pennsylvania regiments. The former was the son of ex-Senator Tipton, of Indiana; the latter of Senator Sturgeon, of Pennsylvania.

Gen. Shields's health is nearly re-established, as his many friends will be delighted to hear.

Two letters from Lieut. Whipple are published in the papers. He is treated kindly as a prisoner of war, and expects shortly to be exchanged.

The following, in relation to the evacuation of Tabasco, is from the Sun of Anahuac of the 27th ultimo:

"The U. S. Steamer Mississippi, Com. Perry, arrived yesterday at Lizarzo, bringing with him the steamers Scorpion, Spitfire, and Vixen.

"The forces have been withdrawn from the city of Tabasco, in consequence of the severe sickness which prevailed among them, till the sickly season shall have passed.

"Every thing was taken on board, and the evacuation was effected without molestation from the enemy, who was in considerable force outside. The defences were all destroyed when the place was first occupied six weeks since.

"Commander Van Brunt, with the bomb-ship Emma, the steamer Scorpion, and the gunboat Bonita, were left at Frontera, a few miles from the mouth of the river, (it being a healthy locality,) to take charge of the custom-house there, and guard the passages leading to the capital."

It is due to truth to say that the Sun of Anahuac, on its Spanish side, represents the evacuation of Tabasco in a less favorable light for our arms than the above account. It attributes our withdrawal to the overwhelming forces of the enemy. Our commandant feared he would be unable to resist an attack, and determined to evacuate the place rather than risk the issue.

Com. Perry has issued the following notice and order:

"U. S. FRIGATE MISSISSIPPI, ANTON LIZARZO, JULY 28, 1847.

"Notice is given that the war tax of ten per cent, *ad valorem*, imposed on exports from the ports of the Gulf of Mexico occupied by the naval forces of the United States, is hereby ordered to be discontinued.

"All officers under my command having charge of the collection of duties under the war tariff of April 7th, 1847, will act accordingly.

"M. C. PERRY, Com'g Home Squadron."

We have a copy of the American Star of the 29th of July. This paper it will be recollected is published at Puebla. It contains little news from the capital, and is not as full as Mr. Kendall's letters. We annex the last general order we see in it.

"HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, PUEBLA, JULY 28, 1847.

"Experience has shown that the safety of the persons and property of this army calls for a more regular system of police than has hitherto been observed on the part of the Gulf of Mexico occupied by the naval forces of the United States, is hereby ordered to be discontinued.

"All officers under my command having charge of the collection of duties under the war tariff of April 7th, 1847, will act accordingly.

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We have letters from the American officers prisoners in Mexico, which we cannot find room for this morning. The latest date is the 15th July. The health of the party is good, but they have no prospect of release.

Mr. Kendall perseveres in sending couriers to Vera Cruz, though he has had three captured. One has been killed. He fought bravely for his life, and was faithful to the last. By singular good fortune the letters by this courier we have recovered. They are not of a late date, but it is rather singular that they should have reached their destination *against the wishes of the Mexicans*, when once in their possession.

Mr. Trist must have been indisposed. A private letter written on the 29th ultimo says: "Mr. Trist's health has improved."

We have a copy of *El Nacional* of the 21st and 24th ultimo. This paper is published at Atlixco, the present capital of the State of Puebla. From it we learn that Gen. Garay has reported to the Government that he had defeated one hundred and fifty American riflemen at the river Colobozo. He sets down our loss at one captain and fifteen soldiers killed, five drowned, and fifteen made prisoners. Besides, he says he took forty horses and some mules and arms. His own loss is not mentioned.

We are unable to make further use of our papers and correspondence to-day. Our correspondence from Puebla and the city of Mexico is important.

Editorial Correspondence of the Picayune.

PUEBLA, MEXICO, JULY 13, 1847.

In my last letter I intimated that a letter had been received from one of the American officers still unjustly retained in Mexico. It was dated on the 8th instant, and I give one or two extracts:

"Since my last, the preparations for your reception here have gone on with great spirit. An army of not less than 25,000 men, well dressed and apparently well armed, are now on their march."

Major JOHN P. GAINE, who is also a prisoner, in a letter to his brother of a later date, (July 29th) states the number at 30,000. He says:

"Our army is still waiting at Puebla, and why it does not advance upon the city excites the astonishment of all. That there is some good reason for this (to me) extraordinary inactivity, I fondly hope. Facts yet to be learned will demonstrate, but with the lights I have the delay is inexplicable. Had our army marched forward directly after the battle of Cerro Gordo they would have encountered an enemy of a sort, an army of 30,000 men have been concentrated here. That we shall

now in this city and neighborhood. Handsome pieces of artillery have lately been cast, while their fortifications are nearly completed. The artillery may reach one hundred pieces—they certainly have not less than sixty in number. The display here is quite imposing, and the nation is made to believe that the great majority of the United States for peace proceeds from an apprehension that our army dare not attempt to move upon the capital. The long delay of Gen. Scott at Puebla, the arrival of a minister of peace, and our repeated offers to treat, give color to the idea, in the estimation of this people, that Gen. Scott is fearful of attempting the reduction of the capital. We are known to possess the value of these speculations; but it is needless truth that they are rapidly becoming swayed on the public mind."

"Be assured there can be no peace made with Mexico at this time—Santa Anna dare not and Congress will not. Let our army but move here and the resources of the nation are cut off; and the people seeing the capital in our hands, peace must follow."

"The strongest feeling of the Mexicans is at El Perote, three leagues from here and on the best road leading into the city; but the best approach is by Guadalupe or Chapultepec, and the position for throwing shells is better from either. The road to Guadalupe branches about one and a half miles short of the Perote, passes round the Lake of Tezcuco, and is thirty miles further than the direct route. There are two or three leagues of soft ground on this road, made so by the recent rains, which may present some difficulty to your progress, but I judge it may be overcome. The road to Tacubaya and Chapultepec is good, and here is the supply of water for the city, which may be cut off."

"I have written to the Minister of War here in relation to our detention, but can get no answer. I was asked a day or two since by Col. Moreno, a Mexican officer, why our Government had not proposed to have exchanged? I replied that I had no information on that point, except that according to the official statements, both Gen. Taylor and Santa Anna, were exchanged the day after the battle of Buena Vista, but whether any steps had been taken to secure a compliance I was not informed. The health of our party is as good as could be expected under the circumstances."

I have given you all the more interesting extracts from this letter, and when I state that it is from an officer well informed and on the spot, his opinions should pass for something. His ideas in relation to peace are coincided in by almost every one here. The dragons under Kearny and Sibley, accompanied by a white flag, which I mentioned in my last as about ready to start, went out yesterday morning towards the capital with a white flag. One object of this mission is to procure the liberty of the American officers now detained, and it is hoped it will be successful, even if they are sent home by way of Tampico.

Speaking of prisoners, has it ever occurred to you that there are other Americans in Mexico besides those held in the capital who are certainly so far confined as to be utterly unable to leave? I might give you a long list of names, and you would find that of your humble servant in the number, who have seen quite enough of Mexico, and are anxious once more to breathe the free air of the United States; but to all intents and purposes we are prisoners here, and there is no such thing as telling when we are to be released. To be sure we are "on the limits"; that is, we can walk about inside the sentinels; but who goes outside of the sound of "who goes there?" does it at great peril. The largest liberty is here compressed into the smallest possible space, and that perfect freedom of coming and going we enjoy at home may be now quoted in Mexico as merely nominal.

The rains continue. Hardly an afternoon passes without a cheering shower, and as the army has no tents the poor soldiers must suffer incredibly on the road to Mexico.

Alluding to the advance upon the capital, there are certainly individuals in the army, and those who should be well informed, who do not think we shall reach it; who are of the opinion that peace or an armistice will be settled or entered into this side. Negotiations of some kind are certainly going on, all probably relating to peace, but the mass know nothing of the nature of them.

PUEBLA, MEXICO, JULY 16, 1847.

The division of Gen. Twiggs was reviewed yesterday by Gen. Scott, and made a most brilliant show. Gen. Quitman's division is to be reviewed to-day, the cavalry on Saturday, Gen. Pillow's division on Sunday, and Gen. Worth's division on Monday. Col. Garland's brigade, attached to the latter, is now absent in the direction of Perote—one reason why the division is not to be reviewed sooner.

All our accounts from the city of Mexico, both verbal and through the newspapers, would indicate that the enemy is determined upon making a stout resistance, and that they will do it in the general impression. No man can well believe otherwise with the lights now burning openly before him; but at the same time there may be secret influences at work, to bring about an adjustment of our differences with Mexico, which no man out of the circle of those engaged in the secret can know any thing of. I should be far from surprised were I to learn positively that English influence and American gold were now at work at the capital, and that bribery was endeavoring to take from the bayonet its legitimate office. Sincerely do I hope that such influences may not be at work, and that if they are they may prove unsuccessful. The idea of purchasing a peace of these people must be repugnant to every true lover of his country—it would be dishonorable on the very face of it, and would be far from proving lasting in the end. If Congress is really now in session, there are doubtless many of the members ready to do any thing for money—they have heard of the "three millions," and the honor and best interests of their country must stand aside if there is any chance of their pockets being replenished. Santa Anna, too, will aid and abet any movement, so that he can come in for the lion's share; and such are the men bribery and corruption have to work upon. I repeat, that I hope that neither English influence nor American gold may be able to effect any thing in bringing about a peace. It is impossible for me to say with certainty that these agents are at work, but I believe they are; and I further think if any thing but creditable to our country to make use of them. With the American flag flying at the palace in the capital perhaps we might hear something in the shape of a proposition—the first one—from Mexico. At all events, while we are thus far in the country, the experiment were preferable to hiring a beaten enemy to accept our terms.

The rumors of peace are again prevalent, and the talk now is that the army will not move for two weeks—some think not at all. Every hour puts a new phase upon matters, but something unusual is now in the wind. Yours, &c.

G. W. K.

PUEBLA, (MEXICO), JULY 25, 1847.

Since dispatching my last courier, three days ago, I have not written you, for the simple reason that I had nothing to say. Even rumors have not been abundant as they were a week since, the jade who circulated them with so prolific a hand on our first arrival having either died herself down or worn herself out. Not ten days since we had twenty different stories in circulation to Santa Anna's use, and within hours his stock of news had fallen to one. The war, purely of a fancy description, rising and falling with every puff of wind from the capital. Now we simply hear occasionally that he continues to lead Congress and the people by the nose; in short, that he is having every thing his own way. Dictator he was at last accounts to all intents and purposes, and his measures, whatever they may have been, he was carrying out with a high and most successful hand. The law of one day, if it stood the least in his way, was abolished the next, and he who raised the voice of opposition or dissent was placed where his voice could not be heard, let him shout at his loudest. Such was the state of affairs at the capital four days ago; they may have altered since then.

In my last I mentioned the capture of a Mexican mail by a party of dragons. Since then another package has been taken, and the contents of one of the letters was outrageous beyond belief. The writer, a young man half crazy and two-thirds knave, spoke of women being daily outraged by not only our men, but the higher grades of officers; said that the most gross excesses were perpetrated in open day; that females were not safe even in their own houses; that many good citizens of Puebla had already died of rage, and that he himself could not possibly restrain his indignation against the atrocious crimes as were hourly committed by the sacred and perfidious Yankees—he must die from an excess of cholera! He winds up his letter by swearing to the truth of all he has written, and then asks his friend in the city of Mexico to read and circulate the precious document. He is now safely lodged in prison, and gives as an excuse that he only wrote the letter in

gain another glorious victory, should the Mexicans show fight, there is not the slightest doubt; and perhaps, after all, a peace will be more certainly "conquered" and more speedily than if there had been no delay."

And the Vera Cruz "Iris" of the 1st instant, speaking on the same subject, says:

"We are assured that there are more than twenty-five thousand men in Mexico, to which are to be added four thousand which General Valencia is bringing from San Luis Potosi, with fourteen pieces of artillery. It is said also, that there were fifteen thousand men stationed in the environs of Mexico, and in the direction of Puebla, so as to cover all the important points of the country. The first of these numbers would take place in the hands of Gen. Scott, in case of their attempt to march upon the capital."

As he has been told that he must remain in prison until he proves one of the statements he has so solemnly sworn to, his incarceration is likely to be a long one.

I have seen an order, issued at the city of Mexico on the 19th instant by Gen. Lombardini, in which, after stating that it is now time for the great Mexican nation to show the world that her sons have not degenerated, the commander-in-chief goes on to decree as follows: That on the American's first appearance in sight of the capital a gun shall be fired in the plaza; that instantly all the bands shall strike up the alarm; that all the military shall at once hurry to their appropriate stations; that all the stores, and especially those of charcoal and provisions are to be sold, and immediately carried out of the city; that the people shall be allowed in the streets; and that there shall be no assemblage of persons in any part of the city. Such is the plan of giving the alarm, and of the after government of the city. The idea of showing to the world that her sons have not degenerated is purely Mexican, but what a pity they should not have thought of this before. It will take a deal of hard fighting and bloodshed to place them where they stood previous to the battle of Palo Alto.

In one of my last letters I noticed the death of Lieutenant Tipton, of the Rifles—a son of Senator Tipton, of Indiana. Since then a son of Senator STURGEON, of Pennsylvania, a lieutenant in one of the regiments from that State, has died, and he, too, I have been told, was a young man of some promise. I cannot learn that any of our officers are now seriously injured, but it is probable that some are, and it is improving. To be sure there are 1,500 or 2,000 men sent on the sick list, but a large portion of them are convalescing.

Last evening, on the strength of a letter said to have been received from the Spanish Minister in Mexico, peace stock went up. It was rumored that the contents of his communication made peace inevitable; that the Congress and Santa Anna were disposed to agree to any thing in order to ensure the safety of the people. I do not wish to be led to draw what it would appear that there is no earthly chance for an amicable adjustment of our difficulties. From all accounts, it would appear that Santa Anna and Congress are at sword's point, and that the former has all the advantage over the constituent wisdom of the great and magnanimous Mexican nation. It may be recollected that some two months since Congress passed a law declaring any one a traitor who would even entertain the idea of going over to the enemy. So far so good. When Santa Anna received Mr. Buchanan's last proposition, a few weeks since, he at once submitted them to Congress for that body to act upon the matter in the premises; but what did Congress do but send the papers back with an answer that they initiated steps belonging exclusively to the Executive, and that they would not be asked to do what he did not send the papers before Congress to ascertain what his prerogatives were—he knew their full extent well—but he had laid the matter before that body in order that the members might recollect their former decree declaring any one a traitor, &c. if they saw fit. That he thought they would do this, and thus give him all and every power, is highly probable; but Congress took a stubborn fit, and here the whole affair rests. I do not expect I shall ever see the end of this impression now is, that he has determined to hazard the defence of the capital, and this impression gains strength when it is known that he has Congress to lay the blame upon in case he suffers another defeat. Another battle, in my humble opinion, will be of immense advantage to the United States; for Gen. Scott moves upon the capital the Mexicans will certainly be defeated. I do not expect to see the end of this impression now is, that he has determined to hazard the defence of the capital, and this impression gains strength when it is known that he has Congress to lay the blame upon in case he suffers another defeat. Another battle, in my humble opinion, will be of immense advantage to the United States; for Gen. Scott moves upon the capital the Mexicans will certainly be defeated. 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